

Patent Application No. 09/728,095

REMARKS

This Amendment is made in response to the Final Office Action dated April 2, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 USC §103. By this Amendment, claims 1-17 are cancelled without prejudice and new claims 18-29 are introduced. Currently pending claims 18-29 are believed allowable, with claims 18, 22 and 26 being independent claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,870,746 to Knutson et al. ("Knutson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,519,865 to Kondo et al. ("Kondo"). By this Amendment, claims 1-17 are cancelled. The claim rejections for claims 1-17 are therefore considered moot.

NEW CLAIMS:

New claims 18-29 are added by this Amendment, with claims 18, 22 and 26 being independent claims.

No new matter is believed introduced by claim 18, and support for this claim can be found in the specification. Particularly, claim 18 details a method for finding a query solution in a data space. Application, page 1, lines 24-27. The method involves performing a query such that a sub-space within the data space is defined that may contain the solution. Application, page 3, lines 4-7. The method further includes searching for the solution outside the sub-space without performing another query. Application, page 5, lines 5-9.

Claim 18 recites, in part, "searching for the solution outside the sub-space without performing another query." It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not teach or suggest this claim limitation. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 18 is believed allowable and such allowance is earnestly requested.

Claim 19 is dependent on and further limits claim 18. Claim 19 recites, in part, "wherein searching for the solution outside the sub-space without performing another query includes graphically navigating outside the sub-space." See Application, page 4, lines 4-6. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest this claim limitation.

Patent Application No. 09/728,095

Thus, for at least this reason, claim 19 is believed allowable and such allowance is earnestly requested.

Claim 20 is dependent on and further limits claim 18. Claim 20 recites, in part, "wherein searching for the solution outside the sub-space without performing another query includes receiving coordinates outside the sub-space." See Application, page 15, lines 1-5. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest this claim limitation. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 20 is believed allowable and such allowance is earnestly requested.

Claim 21 is dependent on and further limits claim 18. Claim 21 recites, in part, "wherein searching for the solution outside the sub-space without performing another query includes changing conditional attributes to display attributes and display attributes to conditional attributes." See Application, page 5, lines 5-9. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest this claim limitation. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 21 is believed allowable and such allowance is earnestly requested.

Independent claim 22 recites a system for finding a query solution in a data space. Application, page 1, lines 24-27. The system includes an initial query such that a sub-space within the data space is defined that may contain the solution. Application, page 3, lines 4-7. The system further includes a space navigator configured to search for the solution outside the sub-space without performing another query. Application, page 5, lines 5-9 and Figs. 2-7. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest a space navigator as recited in claim 22. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 22 is believed allowable and such allowance is earnestly requested.

Claim 23 is dependent on and further limits claim 22. Claim 23 recites, in part, "wherein the space navigator is further configured to graphically navigate outside the sub-space." See Application, page 4, lines 4-6. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest this claim limitation. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 23 is believed allowable and such allowance is earnestly requested.

Claim 24 is dependent on and further limits claim 22. Claim 24 recites, in part, "wherein the space navigator is further configured to receive coordinates outside the sub-space." See Application, page 15, lines

Patent Application No. 09/728,095

1-5. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest this claim limitation. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 24 is believed allowable and such allowance is earnestly requested.

Claim 25 is dependent on and further limits claim 18. Claim 21 recites, in part, "wherein the space navigator is further configured to change conditional attributes to display attributes and display attributes to conditional attributes." See Application, page 5, lines 5-9. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest this claim limitation. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 25 is believed allowable and such allowance is earnestly requested.

Independent claim 26 recites a computer program product for finding a query solution in a data space. Application, page 1, lines 24-27. The computer program product includes a computer readable program code configured to cause the program to perform an initial query such that a sub-space within the data space is defined that may contain the solution. Application, page 3, lines 4-7. The computer program product further includes a computer readable program code configured to cause the program to search for the solution outside the sub-space without performing another query. Application, page 5, lines 5-9. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest searching for the solution outside the sub-space without performing another query as recited in claim 26. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 26 is believed allowable and such allowance is earnestly requested.

Claim 27 is dependent on and further limits claim 26. Claim 27 recites, in part, "computer readable program code configured to graphically navigate outside the sub-space." See Application, page 4, lines 4-6. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest this claim limitation. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 27 is believed allowable and such allowance is earnestly requested.

Claim 28 is dependent on and further limits claim 26. Claim 28 recites, in part, "computer readable program code configured to receive coordinates outside the sub-space." See Application, page 15, lines 1-5. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest this claim limitation. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 28 is believed allowable and such allowance is earnestly requested.

Patent Application No. 09/728,095

Claim 29 is dependent on and further limits claim 16. Claim 29 recites, in part, "wherein the computer readable program code configured to search for the solution outside the sub-space without performing another query includes computer readable program code configured to change conditional attributes to display attributes and display attributes to conditional attributes." See Application, page 5, lines 5-9. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest this claim limitation. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 29 is believed allowable and such allowance is earnestly requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the forgoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this case is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain at issue that the Examiner feels could best be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the attorney below.

This Amendment is accompanied with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Please charge the RCE fee of \$770 to Deposit Account 50-0510. No additional fee is believed due, however, should an additional fee be required please charge Deposit Account 50-0510. Should any extensions of time be required, please consider this a petition thereof and charge Deposit Account 50-0510 the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,



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